



Facilitating the sharing and coordinated use of spatially referenced data in Delaware

Meeting Summary
Quarterly DGDC/SMAC Meeting
1:00 p.m., February 19, 2004
Paradee Center
Dover, DE

Attendance List:

Mike Mahaffie	State Planning Coord.
Sandy Schenck	DGS
John Watson.....	DGS
Paul Sample.....	Legislative Council
Dick Sacher	UD/RDMS
John Callahan.....	UD/RDMS
John Laznik.....	UD/CADSR
Shelly McCoy.....	UD/Morris Library
Andrew Homsey.....	UD/WRA
Nicole Minni.....	UD/WRA
Chad Lauderbaugh	DeIDOT
McKelvin Gilbert	DeIDOT
Mollie Raley.....	DeIDOT
Debbie Sullivan.....	DNREC
Miriam Pomilio.....	DNREC
Doug Rambo.....	DNREC
George Yocher	Div. of Public Health
Doyle Tiller.....	DAS/DFM
Pete Gerardi.....	DAS/DFM
Kevin Nielson	PSC
Lyn Anderson.....	Labor
Brad Strittmatter.....	Sussex Co.
Matt Laick.....	Sussex Co.
Margie Duranko	Kent Co.
John Taber.....	New Castle Co.
Roger Barlow.....	USGS
Brian Smith.....	GeoDecisions
Brianne Press	URS
Angela DiFrancisco.....	CABE Associates
Stephanie Arthurs	DBF

Welcome and Introductions

Mike Mahaffie began the meeting at 1:00 p.m. The meeting started with attendees introducing themselves.

Information Updates

Framework Update

Mike Mahaffie went over an update list of the Delaware Spatial Data Framework (attached) data sets. This list will be fleshed-out into an annual Framework report and submitted by the I-Team to the Governor.

2002 Ortho Distribution

Mike Mahaffie reviewed plans to create an Acceptable Use Policy to govern the use of the high-resolution version of the 2002 Delaware orthophotography.

DataMIL Migration

Mike Mahaffie and others reviewed plans to migrate the DataMIL from UD's Research and Data Management Services to the DGS and DTI. Funds for the migration have been added to the Governor's

recommended budget and are now under review by the General Assembly.

Conference Update

John Callahan gave an update on plans for the 2004 Delaware GIS Conference.

GIS in Education

Lyn Anderson gave an update on the activities of the GIS in Education group. The group is active as part of the conference and has been working with an educator's group and with non-school youth organizations. Lyn asked for volunteers to take over the leadership of the group.

Delaware GIS Survey

John Laznik gave a presentation (attached) on his plans for a statewide GIS survey to measure what GIS software state and local agencies, and private sector users, are using and what data projects they are undertaking.

John explained that he started thinking about a survey when he was doing a project and discovered that someone else was already doing the same thing.

John gave a brief history of GIS coordination in Delaware.

John explained that the survey will likely be unveiled at the 2004 GIS Conference.

There was general discussion about the importance of creating and publishing metadata. This includes metadata about data holdings, about data projects, about plans for data acquisition, and about data-related documents and web sites.

John Callahan noted that RDMS is planning a new set of web pages with additional information about publishing metadata.

Delaware State Boundary Data Set

Sandy Schenck gave a presentation (attached) on the various historic survey lines that make up the Delaware state boundary. These include the transpeninsular line, the tangent line, the arc line, the north line, the top of the wedge line, the Delaware-Pennsylvania boundary, the 1934 mean low water line, and the Delaware Bay line.

Sandy explained that the USGS has recently undertaken a project to create new, highly accurate boundary lines for Delaware. These are mathematically derived to run through the locations of the boundary monuments that mark the landward boundaries of Delaware.

Sandy noted that those lines are remarkably accurate, on the south, west, and north, but that there are several issues that have arisen that are now under legal review.

First, the USGS work has exposed an error in the description of the location of one of the points defining the boundary between Delaware and New Jersey. Parts of that boundary are defined by points along what was the shoreline on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River in 1934. The recent USGS work has exposed an error in the text describing one of those points by bearing and distance from a reference point further inland.

The USGS project has also highlighted an ongoing uncertainty about the seaward limits of the state boundary. This uncertainty stems from an uncertainty about the language in a boundary agreement between Delaware and New Jersey.

It is these two issues that are under legal review.

Meanwhile, Sandy is considering creating a "state outline," using the landward boundary lines and the state shoreline, to create a state outline that is more like what people have come to recognize as the silhouette of the state. Sandy asked for feedback on the question of whether to include the 1934 line as part of that outline.

GIS at DelDOT

Brian Smith, of GeoDecisions, gave a presentation (attached) on some of the major data management projects now under way at DelDOT. These include a cultural resources inventory, information on stormwater and drainage, an update of the urban boundaries, and a sidewalk inventory for Kent and Sussex Counties.

Brian also highlighted the new Information Network for Online Resource Mapping (INFORM), an intranet/internet application to serve as a primary source for DelDOT business data. This is an IMS application to bring together GIS and management data relating to DelDOT's business processes.

Brian explained that this system will ultimately be the sort of system that can be networked with applications such as the DataMIL to create a truly distributed network of data sources in Delaware.

Wrap Up

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.